Promotion of natural gas

1649.SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas has emerged as the most preferred fuel or feedstock due to its inherent environmentally benign natural, greater efficiency and cost effectiveness;

(b) if so the steps taken to promote natural gas;

(c) whether there is a wide gap between demand and supply of natural gas in the country; and

(d) if so the measures taken to bridge the demand and supply gas of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) It has been decided to convert naphtha and fuel oil based urea plants to natural gas. De-bottlenecking and expansion of existing gas based urea plants and revival of closed units on natural gas is also being taken up. Efforts are being made to make available Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas to a greater number of cities and towns throughout the country. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

(c) and (d) The demand for natural gas in the country is more than the availability. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply natural gas, Government has adopted a multi pronged strategy. These cover:-

(i) Intensification of domestic E&P activities;

(ii) Exploitation of unconventional sources like Coal Bed Methane (CBM);

(iii) Underground coal gasification;

(iv) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;

(v) LNG Import;

(vi) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Fake gas cylinders

†1650. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of fake gas cylinders are in circulation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases unearthed as on date during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi